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**Civil Action No. 7:06cv00056**

## MEMORANDUM OPINION

**By: Samuel G. Wilson**  
**United States District Judge**

I.

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his current conviction was for a controlled substance offense, and he had two prior felony convictions for crimes of violence. See U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1. Because Newton's conviction carried a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, see 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(iii), the court found Newton's base offense level to be 37 under the career offender provisions of U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1. Because this offense level exceeded the level that U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(c)(2) would have prescribed on the basis of drug quantity alone, the court applied it. See U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1. Therefore, the resolution of Newton's drug-quantity objection was immaterial to his sentence, and the court made no findings regarding drug quantity beyond the 50-gram finding necessarily made by the jury when finding Newton guilty. The court ultimately sentenced Newton to 360 months.

Newton appealed, claiming, among other things, that the court violated Booker by making impermissible findings of fact with regard to drug quantity and career-offender status. See Newton v. United States, 141 Fed.Appx. 114, 2005 WL 1793717 (4th Cir. 2005). The Fourth Circuit found that the district court had not made any finding of fact as to drug quantity "because the career offender status determined the applicable criminal history offense level" and that, because Booker does not apply to the fact of a prior conviction or convictions, the court did not violate Booker when making the findings necessary to support Newton's classification as a career offender. Id. Newton filed a writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court, which that Court denied. In his current petition, Newton again claims that the court transgressed Booker by sentencing him based on a drug quantity neither admitted nor found by a jury.

## II.

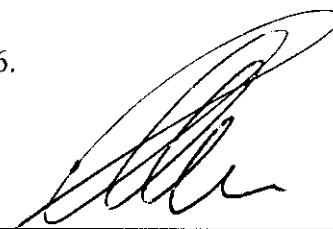
In his § 2255 motion, a petitioner may not relitigate a claim which the Court of Appeals has already fully considered and decided on direct appeal. Boeckenhaupt v. U.S., 537 F.2d 1182,

1183 (4th Cir. 1976). Having reviewed Newton's current Booker claim, the court finds it indistinguishable from the one already addressed by the Fourth Circuit as part of Newton's appeal<sup>1</sup> and, therefore, the court will not address it as part of Newton's § 2255 motion.

**III.**

For the foregoing reasons, the court denies Newton's § 2255 motion.

ENTER: This 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2006.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup>In his motion, Newton appears to claim that his attorney failed to raise the current Booker claim on direct appeal; however, the claim advanced in his motion is indistinguishable from the one the Fourth Circuit addressed as part of Newton's direct appeal. See Newton v. United States, 141 Fed.Appx. 114, 2005 WL 1793717 (4th Cir. 2005).